



Langston Fire



Langston Fire, August 20, 2001, 10:30 a.m.

This fire is being allowed to burn to benefit the fire-adapted Ponderosa pine forest. This type of management is part of the new National Fire Plan which aims to return fire to its natural role when and where it will not put human development or private property in danger.

The Langston Fire

The Langston Fire is burning on remote Langston Mountain in the Kolob Canyons section of Zion National Park. The fire started on the night of August 15 during a series of severe thunderstorms. Southwest Utah received over 1,400 lightning strikes that evening. The fire is burning in open Ponderosa pine forest. Most fire activity is in Gambel oak and manzanita on the forest floor.

The fire is being managed for the good of the resource and is not being suppressed. Current conditions are within a predetermined “prescription,” or set of fuel moisture, relative humidity, and temperatures, that allow the forest to receive the maximum benefit from a fire burning on the forest floor. The Ponderosa pine plant community is fire adapted—multiple fire scars show that this forest has burned in the past. The fire is burning on an isolated mesa top where the opportunity for it to spread to other areas of the park is minimal.



Low intensity fires that occur frequently maintain the character of the Ponderosa pine forest.



Keeping the ground clear of heavy fuels prevents future fires from burning the crowns and killing the trees.